

Appl. No. 10/024,681
Amdt. dated December 7, 2005
Reply to Office action of September 7, 2005

Remarks:

The Applicant thanks the Examiner for the interview of December 5, 2005, during which was discussed claim 1 in general and, in particular, the centralized database and the term "a record". In addition, claim 8 was discussed in general. In addition, the mapping of a record to a shipment and limits on the authority to modify a portion of a record was discussed in particular.

Claims 1-11 and 13-15 are pending in this application.

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-11 and 13-15 and 19-22 under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by United States Patent Application Publication 2003/0065949 A1 to Le et al. (hereinafter "Le"). The Applicant respectfully disagrees.

In particular, the Examiner has directed the attention of the Applicant to paragraphs [0079], [0088], [0090] and [0094] of Le to illustrate that the database element of claim 1 is disclosed in Le. However, it is submitted that, although approximately eleven databases are discussed in the four specified paragraphs, none of the discussed databases have the attributes of the claimed database. That is, none of the discussed databases includes records, wherein each record has "data required to process exporting of a product from a first jurisdiction and data required to process importing of a product to a second jurisdiction" as claimed in claim 1. In contrast, the system discussed in Le includes a database of the export reporting requirements of each jurisdiction (see paragraph [0079]) and a separate database of the import restrictions and health/safety/environmental requirements of each jurisdiction (see paragraph [0088]).

It should be understood by a person of ordinary skill in the art, after reading the specification, that a record, referenced, for instance, on page 18 at line 12, may be considered to be made up of entries in tables. Exemplary tables, which allow the record to have "data required to process exporting of a product from a first jurisdiction and data required to process importing of a product to a second jurisdiction" as claimed in claim 1, are described from page 12, line 22 to page 17, line 8. Advantages of the claimed centralized database of records, where each record fully describes a shipment, are manifold and the Examiner is directed to page 22 of the specification, on lines 11-25 for a brief summary of just some of the advantages.

In view of the forgoing, Applicant submits that claim 1 is not anticipated by Le and respectfully requests that the Examiner's rejection on that basis be withdrawn. Furthermore,

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it is submitted that claims 2-7, which depend, either directly or indirectly, from claim 1, are not anticipated by Le and are, therefore, patentable.

In rejecting claim 8 as anticipated by Le, the Examiner merely states that the claim is rejected on grounds corresponding to the arguments given in rejecting claims 1-4. Claim 8 is an independent method claim having five elements. It is respectfully submitted that, by merely referencing the grounds of rejection of previously rejected system claims, the Examiner has failed to identify all of the elements of claim 8 in the prior art. For instance, the Examiner has failed to identify, in Le, disclosure of "determining whether said instruction to modify relates to a portion of said one of said records for which said member has modification authority." It is submitted that Le discloses a firewall for limiting access to verified users, a web agent for limiting the type of tasks that may be performed by verified users and an application server for limiting the functions and information for which the user has approved access (see paragraph [0042]). In contrast to the claimed analysis of a received "instruction to modify" to determine modification authority, it appears that the system of Le would not allow the instruction to modify to be issued from a user not having approved access.

When an integrated import/export system such as is described in the present application is deployed, wherein each shipment is associated with a single record (of entries in tables) in the centralized database, it is considered important that each member of the supply chain for a given shipment only have modification authority for a portion of the record related to the given shipment. As such, it is considered important that modification authority be determined on a portion-by-portion basis. Notably, even though a supply chain member may have modification authority for the entire record related to the given shipment, instructions to modify the record are expected to only relate to a portion of the record and the determination of whether the member has modification authority may still be determined on a the basis of the portion to be modified. Exemplary modification of portions of a record by members of the supply chain are discussed briefly on page 19 of the specification at lines 18-31.

In view of the forgoing, it may be seen that Le fails to disclose each of the elements of the invention of claim 8 and, therefore, that claim 8 is not anticipated by Le.

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Withdrawal of the rejection of claim 8 and claims 9, 10 and 11, which depend, either directly or indirectly, from claim 8, is therefore respectfully requested.

Claim 13 presents a computer readable medium that allows a processor in an import/export system to perform the method of claim 8. For the reasons stated above in conjunction with the discussion of claim 8, Applicant submits that claim 13 is not anticipated by Le. The Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner's rejection of claim 13 be withdrawn.

Claim 14 and claim 15 relate to record editing systems for carrying out the method of claim 8. For the reasons stated above in conjunction with the discussion of claim 8, Applicant submits that claims 14 and 15 are not anticipated by Le. The Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner's rejection of claims 14 and 15 be withdrawn.

Favorable consideration and allowance of claims 1-11 and 13-15 of the application is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being facsimiled transmitted to the Patent Office at <u>571-273-8300</u> on the date below.	
<u>12/7/05</u> Date	<u>Keith Lutsch</u> Keith Lutsch